



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES  
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**April 10, 2015**

**Workforce Services Policy #1.0, Change 2**

- Subject:** **INCOME GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS DEFINED AS "LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS."**
- Topic:** Health and Human Services (HHS) Poverty Guidelines 2015 and the Department of Labor (DOL) Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL). To provide Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs) with an income guideline table containing calculated poverty levels provided by HHS and Metro and non-Metro LLSIL for the Southern region.
- Scope:** Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD), State Workforce Development Board (State Board), Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB), Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA), other Workforce System Sub-Recipients (Sub-Recipients), Workforce System Partners (Partners), Workforce System Operators (Operators), Chief Elected Official (CEO), Lead Chief Elected Official (Lead CEO); American Job Centers (Career Centers).
- References:** The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act defines the term "Low Income Individual" as one who has a barrier to employment and who is in a family with a total family income that does not exceed the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the LLSIL. Attached, is a table containing the annual LLSIL for 2015 and the HHS poverty guidelines. The LLSIL is used for several purposes under WIOA: specifically, WIOA section 3 (36) defines the term "Low Income Individual" for eligibility purposes, sections 128 and 129 define the terms low-income adults and youth in terms for the poverty line of LLSIL for purposes of state allotments.

The HHS 2015 poverty guidelines may be found in Federal Register, Vol. 80, No. 14, 3236-3237 (available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-22/pdf/2015-01120.pdf>) while the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; Lower Living Standard Income Levels are found in the Federal Register, Vol. 80, No. 59, 16450-16456 (available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-27/pdf/2015-07031.pdf>).

**Instructions:** A table is attached with the HHS poverty guidelines for 2015 and 70 percent Metro and non-Metro LLSIL for 2015. To use this table, compare the poverty level for the family size against either the Metro or non-Metro LLSIL, depending on the county of residence, using the higher of the two in order to qualify the participant as disadvantaged under WIOA. If the LWIA has reached limited funding, the area will utilize this table to determine eligibility under the priority system.

**Contact:** For questions regarding this policy contact Susie Bourque, Director of Policy and Special Projects, at (615) 741-4092 or [Susie.Bourque@tn.gov](mailto:Susie.Bourque@tn.gov).

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Duration:** June 30, 2016



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DH:sb

<b>ANNUAL Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Income Guidelines 2015</b>			
Family Size	Poverty Level	LLSIL* - Metro	LLSIL-Non-Metro
1	\$11,770	\$9,703	\$8,961
2	\$15,930	\$15,898	\$14,681
3	\$20,090	\$21,821	\$20,149
4	\$24,250	\$26,939	\$24,873
5	\$28,410	\$31,795	\$29,353
6	\$32,570	\$37,186	\$34,327
7	\$36,730	\$42,577	\$39,301
8	\$40,890	\$47,968	\$44,275
9	\$45,050	\$53,359	\$49,249
10	\$49,210	\$58,750	\$54,223
11	\$53,370	\$64,141	\$59,197
12	\$57,530	\$69,532	\$64,171
	Add <b>\$4,160</b> for each additional family member	Add <b>\$5,391</b> for each additional family member	Add <b>\$4,974</b> for each additional family member
<b>*Lower Living Standard Income Level</b>			
To use this chart, compare the poverty level for the family size against either the Metro or Non-Metro LLSIL, depending on the county of residence, using the higher of the two.			
<b>Note - Metro LLSIL levels can only be used for the following counties:</b>			
Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Cannon, Carter, Cheatham, Chester, Crockett, Davidson, Dickson, Fayette, Grainger, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hawkins, Hickman, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Macon, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, Polk, Roane, Robertson, Rutherford, Sequatchie, Shelby, Smith, Sullivan, Sumner, Tipton, Trousdale, Unicoi, Union, Washington, Williamson, Wilson.			

Revised: April 2015